
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6775

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Kilmer, Shin, Kastama, Franklin, Kohl-Welles, and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the digital literacy and technology
2 training needs of low-income and underserved areas through state
3 support of community technology programs; and adding a new chapter to
4 Title 28B RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that information
7 technology plays an increasingly important role in the state's economy
8 but that the knowledge level and adoption of information technologies
9 are limited in some areas of the state. It is the intent of this act
10 to address digital literacy and technology training needs of low-income
11 and technology underserved residents of the state through state support
12 of community technology programs.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
14 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Administrator" means the community technology opportunity
16 program administrator designated by the Washington State University
17 extension.

1 (2) "Community technology program" means a program, including a
2 digital inclusion program, engaged in diffusing information and
3 communications technology in local communities, particularly in
4 underserved areas. These programs may include, but are not limited to,
5 programs that provide education and skill-building opportunities,
6 hardware and software, internet connectivity, and development of
7 locally relevant content and delivery of vital services through
8 technology.

9 (3) "Telecommunications company" has the same meaning as provided
10 in RCW 80.04.010 and includes providers of internet services subject to
11 tax under RCW 82.04.297.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The community technology opportunity program
13 is created to support the efforts of community technology programs
14 throughout the state. The community technology opportunity program
15 must be administered by the Washington State University extension. The
16 Washington State University extension may contract for services in
17 order to carry out the extension's obligations under this section.

18 (1) In implementing the community technology opportunity program
19 the administrator must:

20 (a) Provide organizational and capacity building support to
21 community technology programs throughout the state, and identify and
22 facilitate the availability of other public and private sources of
23 funds to enhance the purposes of this chapter and the work of community
24 technology programs. No more than fifteen percent of funds received by
25 the administrator for the program may be expended on these functions;

26 (b) Establish a competitive grant program and provide grants to
27 community technology programs to provide training and skill-building
28 opportunities; access to hardware and software; internet connectivity;
29 assistance in the adoption of information and communication
30 technologies in low-income and underserved areas of the state; and
31 development of locally relevant content and delivery of vital services
32 through technology.

33 (2) Grant applicants must:

34 (a) Provide evidence that the applicant is a nonprofit entity or a
35 public entity that is working in partnership with a nonprofit entity;

36 (b) Define the geographic area or population to be served;

1 (c) Include in the application the results of a needs assessment
2 addressing, in the geographic area or among the population to be
3 served: The impact of inadequacies in technology access or knowledge,
4 barriers faced, and services needed;

5 (d) Explain in detail the strategy for addressing the needs
6 identified and an implementation plan including objectives, tasks, and
7 benchmarks for the applicant and the role that other organizations will
8 play in assisting the applicant's efforts;

9 (e) Provide evidence of matching funds and resources, which are
10 equivalent to at least one-quarter of the grant amount committed to the
11 applicant's strategy;

12 (f) Provide evidence that funds applied for, if received, will be
13 used to provide effective delivery of community technology services in
14 alignment with the goals of this chapter and to increase the
15 applicant's level of effort beyond the current level; and

16 (g) Comply with such other requirements as the administrator
17 establishes.

18 (3) The administrator may use no more than ten percent of funds
19 received for the community technology opportunity program to cover
20 administrative expenses.

21 (4) The administrator must establish expected program outcomes for
22 each grant recipient and must require grant recipients to provide an
23 annual accounting of program outcomes.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Washington community technology
25 opportunity account is established in the state treasury. Donated
26 funds from private and public sources may be deposited into the
27 account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the
28 operation of the community technology opportunity program as provided
29 in sections 1 through 3 of this act. Only the administrator or the
30 administrator's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
32 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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